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*One case of smallpox among detained immigrants at New York.*NEW YORK, *January 28, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that upon inspection at 9 a. m. to-day a case of smallpox was found among the detained immigrants from steamship *Amsterdam*, arriving at this port January 22, 1898.

All the people in the same compartment have been vaccinated by this office, as well as most of the employees. The blankets, etc., have been ordered disinfected and all health officers notified.

I expect no spread of the disease, as it was almost certainly contracted the night before the man left Holland, and was isolated before the vesicular stage was reached; indeed, in the papular stage of eruption.

Unless the cause should happen to be some article of clothing, bought in Rotterdam the day of sailing, January 13, I am of the opinion that the exposure of others to this man amounts to nothing.

Respectfully, yours,

J. H. WHITE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*Sanitary condition of San Marcial, N. Mex.*EL PASO, TEX., *January 25, 1898.*

SIR: Referring to my communication of December 6, 1897, reporting the existence of smallpox at San Marcial, N. Mex., I have to inform you that the danger of the spreading of the disease has happily been removed.

At one time there was quite a panicky feeling amongst the people, fearing the epidemic would become general. Merely to ascertain the true condition I made a visit to San Marcial, which is on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Road about 100 to 125 miles northwest from El Paso, Tex. I found that the local health officer and the railroad officials had instituted prompt measures to stamp out the disease by isolating the patients and inaugurating a wholesale system of vaccination. All train men and other employees have been vaccinated. Orders were issued compelling them to do so, and to obtain certificates I visited all the little towns, settlements, ranches, and schoolhouses about 50 miles above El Paso, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Road, and vaccinated 318 children and grown persons, of course, free of charge.

San Marcial is a typical railroad town of some 1,200 inhabitants. Nine-tenths of the population are families of railroad employees. Not very far from the city is a Mexican settlement. Nearly all American towns on the Mexican frontier in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, in the immediate neighborhood have a Mexican settlement, and amongst these people, almost without exception, contagious diseases have their origin.

It is most difficult to arouse these people to a sense of their danger or respect for hygienic laws and preventive measures. The homes of these people consist generally of one room, say 12 by 14 feet, constituting dining room, reception room, and kitchen, and living room, all in one—a family of 5 to 12, and sometimes 16 children, from one month to sixteen years old. Very often there are some relatives on a visit, and perhaps at night the little dogs, cats, pigs, and chickens are given room in the quarter.

There is no privy. The calls of nature are deposited in the front or back of the premises, as it seems most convenient. The utter lack of

observation of sanitary laws is obvious from the fact that the Mexican native missionary, in the Mexican settlement of San Marcial, went around to hold prayer meetings at sundry places at the time he had 3 children at home with virulent smallpox, of which 2 died.

For nearly a quarter of a century I have noticed the annual recurrences of these contagious filth diseases—sometimes in one place or another to become epidemic. The origin and cause of it is as easy to explain as the multiplication table.

Almost all towns of a few hundred inhabitants in Mexico and on the frontier have a patron saint to whose honor annually a festival is celebrated, consisting of early mass, chicken fights, bull fights, gambling of all kinds, finishing the day with a fandango (low dance). * * *

Most of these people live in shanties exactly as described in the body of this letter, and if no contagious and filth diseases of all classes are produced, it would indeed be miraculous.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in the United States as reported to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service, January 1 to February 4, 1898.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Alabama:				
Bessemer.....	To Jan. 6.....	42		
	Jan. 9-Jan. 26....	78		
Birmingham.....	Jan. 6-Jan. 8....	11		
	Jan. 9-Jan. 26....	29		
Dolomite.....	Dec. 1-Jan. 17....	21		
Oxmar.....	Jan. 19.....			Smallpox reported.
Pinckard.....	Jan. 23.....			Do.
Selma.....	Jan. 13.....	1		
Shelby.....	Jan. 28.....	1		
Talladega.....	Jan. 9-Jan. 26....	41		Do.
Florida:				
Washington County.....	Jan. 24.....	12		
Georgia:				
Atlanta.....	Jan. 17.....	131		
	Jan. 18-Jan. 25....	18	1	
New York:				
Deposit.....	Nov. 1-Nov. 30 ...	1		
North Carolina:				
Wilmington.....	Jan. 12.....	1		
South Carolina:				
Beaufort.....	Jan. 17.....			Do.
Charlotte.....	Jan. 25.....	2		
Greenville.....	Jan. 17.....			Do.
Orangeburg.....	Jan. 17.....			Do.
Rock Hill.....	Jan. 17.....			Do.
Spartanburg.....	Jan. 17.....			Do.
Swansea.....	Jan. 15.....			Do.
Tennessee:				
Chattanooga.....	Jan. 1-Jan. 29....	1		
Huntington (near).....	Jan. 1-Jan. 29....	1		
Knoxville.....	Jan. 1-Jan. 29....	3		
Lenoir City.....	Jan. 1-Jan. 29....	2		
Memphis.....	Jan. 22-Jan. 29....	1		
Mingo mines.....	Jan. 1-Jan. 29....	6		
Virginia:				
Colburn.....	Feb. 1.....			Do.
Norton.....	Feb. 1.....			Do.